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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1951.

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ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR

1951.

October, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1951. On the grounds of economy the report has been stencilled and duplicated in the office this year instead of being printed.

During the year an inspection of the District was undertaken by, and on behalf of, the County Medical Officer of Health and his report was presented in September, 1951.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres.	3,196
Population - Preliminary Census, 1951.	10,076
- Registrar-General's estimate of home population.	9,920
Number of inhabited houses.	3,007
Rateable value.	£61,638
Amount Produced by a Penny Rate.	£248

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town the chief of which are tanning, manufacture of anti-biotics, electrical accessories, light engineering, dressmaking and fancy goods. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

At the time of the 1951 census there were 10,076 people in the Ulverston Urban District, but this figure includes a number of temporary residents at hotels, hospitals and convalescent homes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1951 and for the preceding five years are given in the table on page 2.

The number of births has shown an almost steady fall from the post war peak in 1947 and the birth rate has followed a similar course. Of the 138 births registered in 1951 72 were male and 66 female and two of the births were of illegitimate children.

Year	Live Births.		Deaths (all causes).		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality.			
									Total.		Neo-Natal.	
	Number registered.	Rate per 1,000 population.	Number registered.	Rate per 1,000 population.	Number registered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths registered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths registered.	Rate per 1,000 births.	No. of deaths registered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
1951	138	*13.9	155	*15.6	2	14	nil	nil	1	7	1	7
1950	158	15.9	147	14.8	3	19	nil	nil	7	44	2	13
1949	175	17.9	140	14.4	2	11	nil	nil	4	23	-	-
1948	165	16.7	127	12.8	4	23	nil	nil	6	36	-	-
1947	202	20.4	147	14.8	3	14	nil	nil	10	49	-	-
1946	178	18.1	121	12.3	5	27	nil	nil	1	5	-	-
average 5 years - 1946 - 1950	-	17.8	-	13.9	-	19	-	nil	-	32	-	-

*Adjusted (live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.05) = 14.6 per 1,000.
(death-rate (comparability factor, 0.88) = 13.7 per 1,000.

The number of deaths has shown a tendency to rise since 1945 and in 1951 was greater than for any year during the preceding ten years. This is not unexpected and is a direct reflection of the ageing of the population. Some 68% of the deaths were of persons of 65 years of age and over. The main causes of death were Heart Disease 59, Vascular lesions of the nervous system 26 and malignant growths 19.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 148 Smaller Towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	England and Wales.		148 Smaller Towns. 25,000 - 50,000 population.		Ulverston Urban District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1947	20.5	12.0	22.2	11.9	20.4	14.8
1948	17.9	10.8	19.2	10.7	16.7	12.8
1949	16.7	11.7	18.0	11.6	17.9	12.8
1950	15.8	11.6	16.7	11.6	16.9	13.2
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	14.6	13.7

Note: The Death Rates for the Ulverston Urban District quoted in the above table for the years 1947 and 1948 are the Crude Death Rates. Those for the years 1949 to 1951 inclusive, are adjusted Death Rates after correction for age and sex distribution.

The Birth Rates for 1947 to 1949 inclusive are the Crude Birth Rates and those for 1950 and 1951 are adjusted.

The correction is made so that the adjusted rates for the Ulverston Urban District can be compared with the adjusted rate for any other locality or with the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:- J. L. Wild, M.A., M.B., B. Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:- Medical Officer of Health - Dalton-in-Furness Urban District, - Grange-over-Sands Urban District, - Ulverston Rural District.

Divisional Medical Officer - Health Division No. 1, Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector:-	C. T. Hague, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate R.S.I.
Other Appointments Held:-	Engineer and Surveyor - Ulverston Urban District Council. Manager - Water Undertaking - Ulverston Urban District Council.
Additional Sanitary Inspector:-	D. Sartorius, Joint Board Certificate, Certificate R.S.I., Meat and Other Foods. (Resigned April, 1951).
	J. K. Yates, Joint Board Certificate, Certificate R.S.I., Meat and Other Foods. (Appointed June, 1951).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied by Barrow Corporation from Pennington Reservoir to the Ulverston Urban District Council's water-works at Castle Hill, Pennington. Here the water is sand-filtered before storage in a service reservoir of 2½ million gallons capacity. Before passing into the trunk main for distribution the water is subjected to chlorination.

The supply of water was adequate during the year.

Nine bacteriological and two chemical analyses of the treated water were made during the year and all gave satisfactory results.

The supply serves 2940 dwelling houses representing approximately 6,627 population and serves also, by standpipe, a further 96 houses representing approximately 430 persons.

Fourteen houses in the Urban District representing approximately 60 persons have a supply from private sources, e.g. wells, springs, etc, being so remote from the public mains that they cannot be connected at reasonable cost.

Fifty-nine new houses were connected to the public mains during 1951.

Sewerage.

Sewerage throughout the district is mainly on the combined system, both sewage and rain water being carried in the same drains and sewers. The existing sewers are very old and the sewage receives little or no treatment: detritus is removed from a portion of the sewage and the remainder is discharged straight into

tidal waters.

The existing system has been investigated and a new scheme has been prepared by your Surveyor and the County Surveyor which received the approval of the County Council in April.

At 31st December, 1951, there were 2,968 houses on the water carriage system with approximately 3,362 water closets. There were also 33 privy middens and 10 pail closets in use in the district. No conversions took place during 1951.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector, as also are particulars of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 and 1948.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

HOUSING.

The maintenance of adequate standards of housing is one of the major problems confronting the Council. In my last report it was stated that there was much old and substandard property in the town and in the report of the County Medical Officer of Health details are given of some 79 properties which "require urgent attention under the Housing Acts as soon as new houses are available". The Council has already scheduled certain areas to be dealt with as Clearance Areas and in addition has compiled a list of approximately 134 individual unfit houses. There are also some 200 dwellings overcrowded and altogether it is estimated that 500 new houses are required at the present time.

During 1951 94 houses were inspected of which 35 were found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation and one was found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation. Twenty-seven of the defective houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action and five after service of statutory notice; the unfit house was closed and an undertaking given by the owner not to re-let for human habitation.

During the year the erection of 42 permanent houses was completed by the Council and 17 were erected by other persons.

The Sanitary Inspector refers to some of the difficulties in relation to action under the Public Health or Housing Acts, particularly the high cost of repairs in comparison with the income receivable by private property owners.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of infectious disease has again been low, whooping cough providing the greatest number of notified cases, namely 32.

Four houses were disinfected by formaldehyde vapour after infectious diseases, and clothing and bedding has been steam disinfected, when necessary, at Devonshire Road Hospital Barrow.

						1951		
Disease.	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	Number of cases.	Removed to hospital	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	5	6	33	17	15	5	5	0
Diphtheria.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Typhoid and para-typhoid	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles.	1	56	1	0	208	16	0	0
Whooping Cough.	4	3	0	46	49	32	0	0
Pneumonia.	2	5	3	6	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polio-myelitis.	0	6	0	3	0	0	0	0
Polio-encephalitis.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever.	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dysentery.	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Encephalitis Lethargica.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS.	15	79	42	74	253	54	6	0

Tuberculosis.

An increase in the number of new cases of tuberculosis has been noted in each of the last two years. This is almost certainly due to increased diagnostic facilities. In particular, in 1951, the visit of the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit both directly and indirectly led to the earlier diagnosis of some cases of Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1951.

Age Periods. Years.	New Cases. Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Deaths. Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
5-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
15-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75 and upwards.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS.	5	5	0	3	1	0	0	1
	10		3		1		1	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston residents during the past twelve years.

Year.	New Cases. Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Deaths. Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1940	3	6	7	6	3	0	1	1
1941	4	6	7	4	1	0	0	0
1942	7	5	4	7	3	3	0	1
1943	11	14	3	5	3	3	1	0
1944	9	7	5	6	1	2	1	0
1945	4	10	3	2	4	1	0	0
1946	8	2	1	2	5	1	0	0
1947	6	3	1	2	0	3	0	0
1948	1	6	1	0	4	4	0	0
1949	1	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1950	3	6	3	0	2	3	0	0
1951	5	5	0	3	1	0	0	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

At 31st December, 1951, there were in the district 67 factories at which mechanical power was used. It is the

duty of the Local Authority to enforce the provisions of Section 7 of the Act dealing with the sanitary arrangements in such factories and for that purpose 60 inspections were made. Sanitary conveniences were found to be unsuitable or defective in 6 cases. All the defects were remedied.

There were 20 factories where mechanical power is not used. Five inspections were made and in two cases lack of cleanliness was observed. In both cases the defect had been remedied at a subsequent inspection.

There are no outworkers registered under the Act.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above-mentioned Act.

BYE-LAWS.

The following Bye-Laws are in operation in the Urban District.

Subject.		Date of adoption.
Management of Sanitary Conveniences provided and maintained by the Council.		1898
Decent Conduct of Persons using Sanitary Conveniences.		1898
Nuisances.		1898
Common Lodging Houses.		1898
New Streets and Buildings.		1898
-do-	Revised.	1939
-do-	Extended.	1951
Slaughterhouses.		1898
Markets.		1898
Clean Food.		1950

Regulations relating to the supply of water were also made by the Urban Council in 1898 and are now in process of revision.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector is appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We herewith submit a summary of the work relating to Public Health Administration carried out by the Department during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1951.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The system has received the usual attention and has been maintained in an efficient manner.

All drains and private sewers laid by local contractors have been tested and inspected. The connections to the public sewers have been made by the Department's staff.

Details of a new sewerage scheme involving the construction of a new outfall sewer from the Croftlands Park Estate to Carter's Pool have been prepared and tenders invited.

Refuse Disposal.

A regular weekly collection has been maintained throughout the year. Disposal of the refuse has been by controlled tipping and the tip has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Treatments have been carried out to the tip to prevent infestations by rodents and insects.

Salvage.

The Council maintains Waste Food Bins throughout the town. These bins are emptied by local pig and poultry keepers. Waste paper is collected by a waste paper merchant working under the supervision of the Council.

Rodent Control.

Routine treatments of the sewers, controlled tip, sewage works, salvage depot and beck courses have been carried out during the year.

The following is a summary of treatments:-

Private Houses	-	68
Business Premises	-	13
Local Authority Properties	-	10
Hospitals and Schools	-	2

Sanitary Inspections, etc.

Summary of cases dealt with informally:-

Insufficient or insanitary accommodation for house refuse	12
Defective condition of premises (miscellaneous defects)	40
Defective condition of drains	5
Defective or insanitary W.C's.	10
Inadequate Water Supply.	4

Sanitary Inspections, cont.

Defective roofs.	11
Defective spouting and guttering.	5
Overflowing or leaking cesspools.	2
Animals kept in such a manner as to be a nuisance.	3
Verminous premises.	4
Miscellaneous.	2

Cases dealt with by service of Statutory Notices:-

Defective roof	1
Defective condition of premises	4.

Some difficulty has been experienced in getting repairs carried out due to the reluctance of property owners to expend money on buildings which are no longer an economical proposition. The small rents of some of the older houses in no way compensates for the greatly increased cost of repairs necessary to maintain the houses in all respects fit for habitation and an additional problem has arisen in recovering arrears of maintenance in order to preserve existing housing units which are rapidly showing critical defects due to lack of proper maintenance.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Meat Inspection.

Centralised slaughtering for the district is carried out under Ministry of Food arrangements at the privately owned slaughterhouse in The Gill, Ulverston; meat being sent from there to Ulverston, Grange and outlying districts. Reference has been made to the premises in previous reports and although improvements were completed during the early part of the year, the buildings cannot be adapted to reach the modern standards required of a public abattoir or maintain a satisfactory level of slaughterhouse hygiene, particularly during the peak period.

Total number of animals slaughtered was 8,089 and of these, 210 carcases were totally condemned as being unfit for food. 4% of the animals received were admitted as casualties.

Number of Animals Slaughtered at the Abattoir.

Year	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total.
1951	1656	1354	4826	253	8089
1950	1558	1494	5826	82	8960
1949	1211	1456	6579	128	9374
1948	1162	1302	4389	53	6906

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number Killed	1071	585	1354	4826	253
Number Inspected	1071	585	1354	4826	253
All Diseases except tuberculosis:	1656				
Whole carcases condemned	13		141	36	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	361		-	15	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	22.5%		10.4%	1.1%	6.3%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	17		2	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	312		-	-	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	19.3%		0.15%	-	4.3%

Causes of Condemnation.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs.
Generalised Tuberculosis.	17			
Congenital Tuberculosis.		2		
Bruising (Extensive).	2	2	3	
Dropsy (General).	1		19	
Emaciation (Pathological).	2	1	5	
Fever (Acute).	4		3	1
Immaturity.		102		
Jaundice.		2		
Pyaemia (Including Joint-Ill).	2	30	4	
Septicaemia.	2		2	
Other Causes.	—	4	—	—
	30	143	36	1

The percentage of calves condemned for immaturity is high, mainly due to the number of reject calves directed from the local Collection Centre and newly born animals arriving for slaughter direct from farms. Of the two cases of congenital tuberculosis found, one was reported to the County Authorities for Action under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938 but no action could be taken with the second case as this animal arrived for slaughter without identification marks.

Unsound Food.

One hundred and forty visits have been made to premises for the purpose of inspecting foodstuffs and the following articles of unsound food have been voluntarily surrendered by the owners for destruction:-

Butter - 16 lbs.
Cheese - 2 lbs.
Fish Cakes - 18 lbs.
Fruit Pies - 19
Jellied Veal - 3 lbs.
Sausages - 5 lbs.
Sultanas - 14 lbs.
Corned Beef - 21 tins.
Ham - 135 Tins (705 lbs.)
Milk - 142 Tins.
Peas - 15 Tins.
Jam - 9 Tins.
Luncheon Meat - 112 Tins.
Returned to Ministry of Food Agents for salvage.

Sausages - 7 tins.
Vegetables - 44 tins.
Fruit - 67 tins.
Fish - 35 tins.
Soup - 5 tins.
Chicken - 1 tin.
Puddings - 2 tins.
Pickles - 4 jars.
Sauce - 3 bottles.
Baking Powder - 1 tin.
Treacle - 1 tin.
Rabbit - 1 tin.
Baby Food - 15 tins.

Milk and Dairies.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, four persons are registered as Distributors and two premises registered for use as Dairies (not being Dairy Farms).

Three samples of milk were obtained for Bacteriological Examination for cleanliness, two of which proved to be unsatisfactory. The persons concerned were dairy farmers operating from premises outside the District and the cases were dealt with by the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee; further samples taken during early 1952 proved satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and Food Handling Bye-Laws.

One hundred and seventy two inspections were made to food preparing and food storage premises (excluding bakehouses). The following conditions were found and remedied without formal action:

Food Preparing Rooms requiring cleansing or decorating.	5
Store Rooms requiring cleansing or decorating	5
Food stalls not sufficiently cleansed	2
Inadequate or insanitary W.C's	3
No hot water for washing	6

Difficulty is often experienced by the occupiers of these premises in trying to make the many old buildings comply with the Acts and Regulations. Co-operation is not lacking and joint efforts are being made to bring all premises up to the standards of hygiene required under modern standards.

Bakehouses.

There are 16 bake-houses of which nine are classified as mechanical factories and seven as non-mechanical factories. 38 inspections were carried out and contraventions of the Acts were found as follows:-

Rooms requiring cleansing and decorating	- 3
Premises infested with vermin	- 2
Inadequate or insanitary W.C's	- 1
No hot water for washing	- 1

In each case the condition was remedied without the necessity for formal action.

Fried Fish Shops.

There are five fried fish shops. In three instances

the walls of the preparing rooms were limewashed following informal notice.

Ice Cream.

Number of manufacturers registered for manufacture, storage and sale	- 2
Number of retailers registered for storage and sale	- 12

The retailers mainly sell pre-packed ice cream under conditions which satisfy the requirements of the Codes of Practice for such sale.

The manufacturers prepare the ice cream in accordance with the Heat Treatment Regulations, have adequate arrangements for steam sterilisation of utensils and the premises have been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Eight samples of ice cream were submitted for Bacteriological examination and proved satisfactory. Under the provisional grading scheme five came under the category of Grade 1 and three Grade 2.

Preserved Foods.

There are 12 registered manufacturers of preserved foods, but owing to rationing of meat only three are operating full time. Two of these premises are undergoing repairs so that work can be carried out under better hygienic conditions. All the premises have been satisfactorily maintained during the year.

We are, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C. T. Hague.
J. K. Yates.

Sanitary Inspectors.